

Daily Eagle

M. M. MURDOCK, Editor.

OF SERIOUS IMPORT TO WICHITA.

Wichita has a very important case pending before the Interstate Commerce Commission. It is a case involving a number of complaints of freight rate discriminations, by the railways, against Wichita. Of such import are these complaints, of such far reaching consequences, that the Commercial club of Kansas City retained eminent counsel to defeat Wichita's appeal for justice. No man, no set of men, nor any interest whatever, more keenly appreciates what equitable freight rates would mean for Wichita than do the shippers who constitute the Commercial club of Kansas City. But for these discriminations against Wichita's schedules, and tonnage, upon the one hand, and the undue advantages conceded to Kansas City on the claim of the navigability of the Missouri river upon the other hand, Wichita would be a very much larger city today and be doing a vastly greater business. An equitable Gulf rate would insure all the export grain of South Kansas going through Wichita elevators, at a saving to the producer, instead of first being hauled to Kansas City, as now. This is but one item. Manufacturing interests have languished at this point because of the denial of an equitable rate on steaming coal, Wichita is compelled to pay a higher freight rate on lumber, coming from the south, than is paid on the same lumber by Kansas City, Omaha, and by other more distant points. These are but a few of the complaints involved in the case alluded to, as pending, and as being fought by Kansas City's commercial bodies.

To gather up the facts and to sift the evidence constituting Wichita's case required much painstaking work, and much time and a good deal of money. The evidence was all taken in this city, at a special sitting of the commission, but the case as a whole had to be briefed and argued by Wichita's lawyers in Washington. And after all, we sometimes think that Kansas City's bluff would have proved good and this city have dropped its case in despair of ever reaching anything but for two men other than the attorneys. J. E. Howard, of the Union Mills, was and is not only interested in the complaints as a dealer in grain and manufacturer and shipper of export flour, but deeply interested as a property holder and citizen of Wichita. Many and long have been his consultations with the writer of this over the situation. He made trip after trip, one to St. Louis, two to Washington, in his endeavors to keep the suit alive and the commissioners interested.

The compiling, arranging and entering the suit which means so much to Wichita, required not only time, patience and money, but backbone. The average heavy shipper does not like to antagonize the railroads that haul his freight. Many a man and many an interest has been ruined by disgruntled or revengeful railway managements. Wichita's evidence once secured the complaints had to be sworn to and filed, at which point it looked as if the entire proceedings would fail and fail. At this juncture B. F. McLean came forward, not only as the leading plaintiff, and this, too, notwithstanding that he is a heavy shipper whose the railroads could make sweat. But what is more, came forward not only with his grit and love of justice, but came forward with his money to continue the fight. The proprietor of the Union Mills says that the promptness, energy and liberality of McLean put new life and encouragement into the contest and the final hearing was at last had by the commission in Washington. Kansas City's intervention to the contrary notwithstanding, and to our mayor he accords more credit than to any one else.

Equitable freight rates for Wichita, especially to her carload shippers and wholesale distributors, are not only of paramount importance to the commercial growth of this city, to its packers, elevators, implement houses, wholesale houses, millers and manufacturers generally, but to every property holder. The growth of the city commercially means the enhancement of the values of all properties, of homes, of real estate and of what not. So every man is interested in what Mayor McLean has done, has effectively accomplished in this direction, and in so far he has surely won their commendation, and therefore deserves their support.

But these are not, or should not, be ended, whatever the decision on the pending case. There are many other freight rate concessions due the tonnage of this city, as there are other discriminations which should be adjusted to an equitable basis. It would force a calamity to fall down now. We want the fight forced and along the McLean-Howard lines. The present suits must not only be prosecuted vigorously but the others looked after, and we want a man at the head of our affairs who has got the grit and gift of continuance, and who has never been found hanging back when it comes to spending his money in the interest of his fellow-citizens.

A MERGER OF UNNUMBERED MILLIONS.

Wichita used to boast several railways, including four trunk lines, viz: the Santa Fe, the Missouri Pacific, the Frisco and the Rock Island. The indications are now that we will soon have but two systems, and their feeders and branches, to-wit: the Missouri Pacific and the Rock Island, at least until the Orient is completed and the Missouri, Kansas and Texas built in. This threatened consolidation of all the old lines will stimulate the building of new ones.

The dispatches of yesterday announce that there will be held, today, in the city of New York, a meeting of the managements, directors and owners of the Rock Island, of the Santa Fe and of the Frisco, with a view of merging these great systems or for consolidating, or something of the kind. It seems that the big holders in these roads, respectively, are holders in them severally. The proposition is to unite them at least to the extent of operating them in each other's interest, if not under one management.

The scheme is a stupendous one, even for this day of stupendous undertakings. But the proposition or conjecture of such a combine has been in the air for months. The dispatch alluded to says that "The proposed cut-off of the Santa Fe in New Mexico would not be built and instead a cut-off would be constructed through Kansas which would enable the two systems to share in the use of the tracks to California. But this announcement seemed decidedly premature, as a few days later Pres-

dent Ripley announced that there was nothing in it. But this system has always been considered as a possible ally or purchase for the Rock Island and there is a probability that matters will come to a head at the coming meeting.

"A consolidation of the three great roads would make the longest railroad system in the world. It would have a total mileage of 21,040 miles, exclusive of the many extensions and cut-offs the three lines are now building in the different parts of the country. The Rock Island has a line from St. Louis to Kansas City under construction besides its Oklahoma building. The Frisco has an extension down the west bank of the Mississippi river from Memphis to New Orleans, while a road is under construction from Oklahoma City toward Denver which is said to be Frisco property. The Santa Fe is building in New Mexico and is after new lines in California to share in the big lumber trade of the coast state.

"The next move of the great combination, of which the Rock Island is the aggressor, will undoubtedly be to obtain an outlet to the Atlantic coast. In this connection the Georgia Central has already been connected with the Rock Island-Frisco deal. It is said to be the contemplated outlet to the east. The connection could be made at Birmingham, Ala., which is reached by the Frisco. The road forms a network over the southern part of Alabama and Georgia, with its port at Savannah. The system has a mileage of almost 2,000 miles.

"Wall street has been satisfied that this merger of western lines was coming, but these has been some surprise that an official announcement has not yet been made of the purchase of the Frisco by the Rock Island. Weeks ago the details, even, of the deal were known, but for some reason the announcement has been withheld. It may have been with the object of bringing in the Santa Fe to complete the plans."

WOMEN AS LOVELY CARRIER DOVES.

Within the last few months the women of the country districts of the United States have found a new occupation in the government service. Some hundreds of them all over the country have been appointed rural letter carriers and the reports to the department show that the women have done wonderfully well in their new occupation.

Many female letter carriers have of late passed the civil service examinations. There is lots of opportunity for exercise in the open air and under the rules for the appointment of rural carriers one has the right after she is appointed to do the work to employ a substitute when she is incapacitated by the weather or by sickness.

How nice it must be to hear gentle footsteps approaching one's door with welcome letters. And the department officials say that women make very good rural carriers, and do not lose time gossiping when delivering the mail, as one would suppose, and that the innate love of gadding about and visiting their friends to see what is going on makes the female like the work and forget the drudgery.

HOME RULE NOW INEVITABLE.

Public opinion has evidently been revolutionized in Great Britain regarding land tenure in Ireland. Twenty years ago a man would have been deemed guilty of treason for presenting the scheme now offered by the chief secretary of Ireland for the settlement of the Irish land question. In fact, Michael Davitt went to jail for offering similar proposals.

But Irish landlordism has since proved itself to be a very expensive institution and a constant source of national discord. As Mr. Wyndham best described it, it has resulted in "the financial ruin of the landlords and the moral ruin of the tenants."

It is hardly surprising, then, that the Irish leaders can safely boast that the Celtic people of Ireland have compelled the British government to buy out the landlords of the country. It is not to be forgotten that Irish landlordism no longer pays, else the home secretary's bill would not meet with so little objection from the landlord side.

But the chief secretary for Ireland proposes to give outright to the distressed Irish the sum of \$60,000,000, and to lend them \$600,000,000 more. It is no wonder that such a colossal proposal has even shaken the price of consols, not to mention the fact that the colonial secretary has also proposed to lend \$150,000,000 for the rehabilitation of the former Boer states.

As for the details of the proposed purchase bill, they are very complicated, but the fact that such a man as John Redmond seemed to give a cautious assent to the bill, and that the general attitude of the Irish leaders and the landlords was friendly to the measures, augurs well for its prospects.

The plain logic of the whole situation is that under the present order of things the landlords of Ireland are being ruined financially, the tenants morally, and the taxpayers of England are paying \$7,000,000 a year to keep up the Irish police, besides \$700,000 to the land commission. There must finally come an end to such a state of things.

But whatever comes of the present bill, home rule for Ireland is ultimately inevitable. If the English government can have such confidence in the Irish as to give them a bonus of \$60,000,000 and lend them \$600,000,000 more, they ought to trust them sufficiently to give them home rule.

This is the real logic of the situation. The Irish evidently have the winning hold, and it may safely be said that the introduction of the Irish land bill is the most important Irish event that comes to gladden the friends of Ireland on both sides of the water since the defeat of Mr. Gladstone's home rule bill.

THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBLE.

The Philadelphia Ledger, a conservatively independent journal of wide influence, again charges the British government (not the British people) with unfriendliness towards the United States. As showing what a not unimportant section of public opinion in the northern republic is, a paragraph from the Ledger's recent leader may be quoted:

"Efforts are making in England to place the entire responsibility for the alliance upon King Edward, but it is not the king who makes such alliances; he may approve them, but it is the ministry—the real government—which consummates them. It was the British premier, Mr. Balfour, and Lord Lansdowne, the foreign secretary, who actually made the alliance with the Kaiser at Sandringham, and they are responsible for not only affecting it, but for continuing it now that its unfriendly character to this country has been clearly exposed. With respect to the English government and the people generally the conditions are very similar to those which existed during our civil war. Then, as now, the governing classes of England were against the Union cause, and the governed classes for it. The latter are even more united and more opposed to the alliance with Germany than they were to the government's pro-Confederacy policy from 1861 to 1865, and it will not be strange if the government, though urged on by the king, should be compelled to surrender to public opinion and withdraw from the compact with Germany."

AT THE EDGE OF THE PRECIPICE.

Mrs. Hale did not look so charming as usual. She was suffering from a tooth-ache and her cheek was swollen in a heart-breaking fashion. Her pet dimple had disappeared, and when she asked her husband to kiss her, how she looked, he had replied with a frank brutality which showed that he was beyond the honeymoon period.

"Like the very devil my dear," said the husband, "I am not a doctor, but I can give you a dinner and theater party to which she was expected to go that evening."

Her dearest friend, Wilhelmina Seymour, had been lately married, and the completion of her honeymoon trip and her return to London was to have been celebrated that evening at the party which Mrs. Hale was now so painfully forced to renounce.

Mrs. Hale was sitting at her parlor window looking at the house opposite. There was nothing particular to see at the moment, but at times the house opposite was the scene of what, sober-minded people called "goings-on."

It was fine to have a life like that, thought Mrs. Hale. Now, why couldn't she have such a life? Jack, her husband, was a darling, of course, but, oh, so commonplace. There was no more romance about him than there was in the winter's coal bill.

"Just back from the Cape," it ran. "Will call for you at 4:30. Object, dinner and amusement. Will."

The messenger boy disappeared while Mrs. Hale stood at the open door, and she knew who "Will" was. Her friend Wilhelmina Seymour had a fashion of signing her letters thus, but what did she mean by "just back from the Cape?"

As if in search of some key to the problem, Mrs. Hale turned the message over and over and it had read and re-read it, and finally read the address on the envelope, "Mrs. Hills, 15 Brock street W."

She read and subconsciously repeated it as she uttered the words "Mrs. Hills," she jumped from the chair and dropped the envelope on the table.

"Good gracious!" she cried, "that's not my name!"

Wondering and thoroughly mystified now she again took up the envelope. "That's certainly not my name," she repeated, "but the address is mine. And if the message is not from Wilhelmina, who is Will?"

Somewhat the name, "Mrs. Hills," seemed strangely familiar to her, and as she thought herself to her more cryptic than ever she finally concentrated her attention on the name.

Of course, she cried in triumph at last, "Mrs. Hills" was the name of the person who left this house when we took it, ten months ago. The message is for her."

Mrs. Hale used the phrase, "the person" in describing Mrs. Hills, because it was firmly impressed on her mind that she was not a lady. From what she had heard of Mrs. Hills she had mentally classed her with the brilliant blonde of the house opposite.

With her interest in the message diminished by her explanation, Mrs. Hale again looked herself by the window and looked on the world with a pessimistic eye.

For still half an hour Mrs. Hale sat by the window in an agony of self-pity, and then she was aroused by the return of the dog cart, the distinguished-looking man and the brilliant blonde to the house opposite.

Mrs. Hale, feeling intensely jealous of the brilliant blonde, flung herself from her chair and rushed to the door. The fact that she had still got the message for Mrs. Hills in her hand.

As there was no address on the message she could do nothing to prevent "Will" from calling. Therefore she must decide on a course of action. It was strange that the fact that the toothache detracted somewhat from her good looks, naturally she was most attractive, should have anything to do with her decision, but it is an undeniable fact that Mrs. Hale said:

"I wish my face was not swollen."

A few minutes later the same "Will" who had been in the morning, as a matter of fact her pet dimple was struggling for recognition.

"I feel sure," she reflected, "that the electrical message that Nelly Landon was talking of the other day would completely cure it. I'll try it," she decided. "I can cure it by half-past four."

When Lucy Hale returned from her massage at about ten minutes past four she was radiant, beautiful, her eyes sparkled with excitement, and the pet dimple played its due part with great vivacity in adding to the charm of her smiles.

"Ten minutes past four," said Mrs. Hale, leaning at her watch as she sat down to her writing table. At twenty minutes past four Mary, the sole domestic of the establishment, came to the house with a note from Mrs. Hale to Wilhelmina Seymour.

At exactly thirty-two minutes past four a hansom stopped outside Mrs. Hale's house. Mrs. Hale, hidden by the window curtains, surveyed its occupant attentively. Trembling with excitement though she was, yet she noted approvingly the handsome, bronzed, clean-cut face of the man who emerged from the cab. Military beyond doubt, and about thirty years of age.

The door-bell pealed. Undoubtedly it was "Will."

OUTLINES OF OKLAHOMA.

Madame LaMothé is at Oklahoma City. There was a report that she was dead. The center of the southwest has moved again. Mountain Park announces that she is "it."

Taloga will never burn her bridges behind her; that's sure. She is having too hard a time getting them.

Jennett, a farmer in Pawnee county, is looking for trouble. His wife eloped with his brother, so it is said.

Edmond has coupled onto the passenger train of progress. A Commercial club was organized there last week.

Twenty men and boys killed eight wolves in Cleveland county last week. The dividend was \$1.25 a person.

Women were always sacrificing. In Custer county many are going without Easter bonnets and thus subscribing to the Orient bonus.

Most of the papers throughout the territory are staying by the governor in not calling an extra session. It's "sensible Tom."

Oklahoma would out-do every other state in the union if she could only put that El Reno municipal scrap on exhibition at St. Louis.

George Smith has filed a contest of election against L. P. Barker, for the office of sheriff of Cleveland county. Smith is slow. He's a Democrat.

An opposition town is to be started near Vashita. Waskita has named it Scabbey; a perfectly legitimate name, being that of an Indian who lived there.

Pawnee county wants railroads, but not at any cost. Suit has been brought against the Kaites to compel it to leave a road open near Cleveland.

Oklahoma's case is hard. While she had her eye on the legislature, the bold weevil sneaked down an alley of cotton and laid eggs in the south.

It is said that one southern town wouldn't receive the immigration agents for fear of having northern immigration sent in on them. Such is Democracy.

Mullhall State Journal: P. B. Dilday, traveling solicitor for the Wichita Daily Eagle, was here Wednesday, soliciting new "subs." for that splendid Republican sheet.

The immigration agents announced themselves against Oklahoma City being wide open because of its detrimental effect on immigration. One thing sure—they don't mean to return.

Now, if Roosevelt really wants to take Oklahoma's breath away, let him take Jenkins and Ament on his tour. Both are yet to be vindicated. Roosevelt should have invited Merriek on that trip. So Merriek thinks.

Weatherford Chronicle: A little girl in a Sabbath school in this city last Sunday, where the golden text was, "You cannot serve God and mammon," when asked to repeat it, said, "I can't serve God and mamma." And those who knew the child's mother thought the little girl was about right.

Pawnee Times-Democrat: Hon. B. S. McGuire came up from Guthrie last night and is making arrangements to recommence housekeeping here immediately. Mrs. McGuire will join him the latter part of the week. Their many friends delight in welcoming Mr. and Mrs. McGuire's permanent return to Pawnee.

Cordell Herald-Sentinel: It is reported that Wichita capital is willing to build a hotel in Hobart if a site is given and \$2,000 in cash. Hobart seems to be full of hotels now, but none are large enough to suit the trade. The city has outgrown them. Cordell needs a good hotel and offers a good opportunity to capital seeking this kind of an investment.

ALONG THE KANSAS NILE.

The apple is holding a wake over the peach this year in Kansas.

Fred Vandegrift says Sam Forsha is out of it. Fred used to be a good guesser. Salina has her first labor organization. Seems to have been overlooked heretofore.

Lost—Several important coats of the Republican machine. Finder report at Great Bend.

Some are at Great Bend. More are going, and all have the itch in its worse form.

The Republican river has made several changes this spring. It's following the party.

The southwest Kansas conference of the M. E. ministers at Sterling comes to a close tonight.

Two adjournments ought to settle it. The man that can't win a wire straight that long is entitled to the victory.

Harvey and Lyons county have succumbed to the sugar beet. They'll grow some to satisfy themselves they can.

Troy claims Dr. E. C. Franklin, of the State University, as a thirteenth county boy. The chief declares that he first made liquid air.

It has just been discovered in Harvey county that last year's wheat was not injured by the Hessian fly as much as reported.

It must be good news to Judge Price to know that Chester Long is taking no hand in the fight. Price held Long down for a long time.

The Gazette charges a Lawrence girl with taking vocal lessons just in order to get an audience. That's one better than the ego class.

Hawatha threatens to break the record for wire-pulling in municipal elections. The stuff's there. The fight is over it and \$1.50 telephones.

Emporia is in despair because only a few tons of ice have been put up. There's only one man in the town that is keeping cool. That's the artificial ice man.

Bailey has "jumped onto" the adjutant general for recommending the annual outing of the militia for Fort Riley. Bailey desires Kansas to receive all benefits.

Roosevelt is to be in Kansas three days. He might be here a month and if he didn't see Wichita he wouldn't understand where Kansas gets her strength.

At Holton, the Garden of Eden drama has gotten mixed. The men there, says a dispatch, are "prevailing" on the females to vote. My, it must be a hot campaign.

Does it portend something disastrous? Not a soul has predicted a wheat failure? "Politics will make many strange bed-fellows" this week and about eighteen night-mares.

Mulvane Record: It is stated that a Mulvane young man asked his best girl, last Sunday evening, if she couldn't learn to love him. "Perhaps I could," replied the young lady, "but I am afraid you will have a hard time teaching the old man."

Lawrence Journal: The friends of Victor Murdock are putting much enthusiasm into his campaign for the nomination for congress in the Seventh district, and are claiming his nomination with an assurance that gives his friends over the state great hope that he will win the honors of the convention.

Lyons Republican: The Syracuse News says that Victor Murdock, who has a "show for his white ally" in the congressional race, comes of thorough stock, his father is the Roman, and his mother is the Roman. It covers a multitude of brains. He has all the self-reliance of the Murdock clan, and will not need to be shown if he gets there. He would make the right kind of a congressman. There is just one other candidate who shows up with him in character and competency, and it is mighty hard to choose between them.

Aeronautical.

"Pa, what's the difference between a balloon and an air-ship?"

"Why, my son, a balloon goes straight up, but nobody can tell where an air-ship is going until the earth bumps into it."

Save 'Em From Our Friends.

Daily—Poor little couldn't get to the meeting last night. What a you sorry.

Mrs. Why, no. If it'd been there we'd never have heard that story about her.

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Remarkable Sale Muslin Curtains Tomorrow North window, main, shows one hundred and fifty-five remarkable values, Muslin Ruffled Curtains, 2 1-2 and 3 yards in length; in dots, stripes and figures. For spring house cleaning this sale should play a prominent part. It is a bold offer of regular \$1.00 and \$1.25 Curtains. For tomorrow, 9 a. m. **79c Pair**

Extraordinary Sale Brass Fixtures

As a still stronger inducement to Curtain buyers, tomorrow we will offer in connection Extension Curtain Fixtures in brass, complete with trimmings.

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Tomorrow Special Sale Boys' and Children's Hose

North Window, Annex. Fifty-five dozen pairs of Heavy, Bicycle Ribbed, Fine and Medium Weight Hose, in Topsy, Shawknit and Black Cat, the three leading brands; all absolutely perfect in dye and quality. Worth, regular, 25c and 35c; sizes confined to 6, 6 1-2, 7, 7 1-2, 8 and 8 1-2 only; tomorrow, pair..... **19c**

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Men's Summer Underwear We offer one case Men's Bathing suits or Drawers. Any size, today..... 39c	Men's Dress Shoes Solid Vici Kid; good style; solid sole; a very stylish shoe. Today..... \$2.00
Sun Bonnets One case Sun Bonnets, Sunbonnets, double ruffle lace trimmed. Worth 50c, today..... 25c	

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